

SNIPS & ST. JOHNS HERALD

SNIPS & HERALD
Vol. 2, No. 3.

ST. JOHNS, ARIZ., JAN. 16, 1904.

SNIPS, Vol. 3, No. 19
HERALD, Vol. 20 No. 17

MORE ABOUT TONTO MURDER

From Globe Silver Belt.

Zack and John Booth, who are charged with the murder of Wiley Berry and the Mexican boy Vigil on the morning of December 22, in Brushy Hollow, a few miles from Gisela, were brought in from Payson last Saturday evening by a posse con-

these the beasts who murdered my son." It was feared that he might lose his self-control, but he did not and the incident was soon over.

After arrival here, having had supper the prisoners were taken to the sheriff's office and searched preliminary to being locked up. After he had been examined Zack Booth suggested to the officers that they search him again, to be sure that he didn't have any "shootin" irons, saws, files, etc. Zack Booth has the reputation of being one of the cleverest and trickiest criminals in Arizona and is so regarded by ex sheriff J. H. Thompson, who has had a good deal of experience with him. For this reason, and the Gila county jail being not any too safe, it was deemed advisable, to have Zack Booth transferred to some other place having a more secure jail. Judge Kent was appealed to, who ordered Zack removed to the Maricopa county jail at Phoenix, and Pollard Pearson

will take him there, leaving on the train tomorrow morning. John Booth will be kept here and both men will have to remain in jail until the district court of Gila County meets next June.

By direction of District Attorney Hill the bodies of young Berry and Vigil were exhumed and again examined, the post mortem being made by Dr. A. B. Curtis, and in connection with the closer observation of the camp, the positions in which the bodies of victims were found

and the directions from which the fatal shots must have been fired, further circumstantial evidence was adduced and a strong theory of the shooting evolved.

John Booth's examination was concluded last Thursday and he was bound over without bail. The territory expects to present a very strong case against both the accused when brought to trial.

An Associated Press dispatch says: "The feeling in northern Gila county is bitter against the Booths, who are not cattlemen but own goats. Cattlemen, especially, are incensed at the Booths, as statements have been made alleging that the hostility of cattlemen toward sheepmen for invading the range was back of the killing. This is erroneous, as cattlemen are peaceable and anxious to avoid trouble."

If the theory is true that the selfconfessed murderer of Wiley Berry and the Mexican boy fancied that he was doing the cattlemen of Tonto a service by the commission of so foul a crime he could not have entertained a more fallacious idea. There are no more lawabiding or honorable people in Gila county, or in Arizona for that matter, than the men of Tonto basin engaged in the cattle business, and the general sentiment among them in regard to the recent murder is one of profound regret and a desire that the person or persons guilty of the deed be brought to justice. Mr. Berry, father of the deceased Wiley Berry,

the Booths out by some circuitous route, leaving Payson at night, but these fears were groundless and the journey was made without any suggestion of interference on the part of anyone. The only unusual incident was the meeting at Cline, between the posse and W. W. Berry, who was on his way to the place where his son was killed and the body interred. Mr. Berry labored under a good deal of suppressed emotion when he confronted the prisoners and dramatically asked the officers, "Are